Technology for the Production of Azidothymidine

3106. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that technology for the production of Azidothymidine which is required by AIDS patients has been developed by Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, a Government Laboratory;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Technology has been transferred to Indian Drug company for commercialising the drug in India;

(c) if so, the name of the company and by when the drug would be available;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government Laboratory has written to Government for exemption of custom duty on its input Thiomdine;

(e) what is the present custom duty on this and when did Government receive the request;

(f) whether Government have taken any action on this request; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The name of the company is M/s. CIPLA.

(d) to (g) The Indian Institute of Chemical Technology Hyderabad has forwarded a proposal for exemption of custom duty on its input "thiomidine" which has been examined in this Ministry and recommended to Ministry of Finance for their appropriate action.

Revamping of coal based fertilizer plants

3107. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have embarked on an ambitious plan to boost fertilizer production in the country by revamping the existing coal-based fertilizer plants and setting up new gas-based ammonia and urea plants in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what amount would be required for the modernisation and revamping and the results expected to be achieved:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, which is operating a coal based fertilizer plant at Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh), has submitted a proposal for rehabilitation including a captive power plant of 40 MW for Ramagundam Unit at a cost of Rs. 171.94 crores for achieving 60 percent capacity utilisation.

A plant in the private sector for manufacture of Ammonia/Urea based on natural gas is being set up at Kakinadda with a capacity of 900 tpd Ammonia and 1500 tpd of Urea.

Natural gas has also been committed for setting up a medium sized Ammonia/Urea plant in Krishna Godavari basin, for which a promoter is yet to be identified.

Liberalisation of sale of fertilizers

3108. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from fertilizer industry to liberalise the fertilizer sales by introducing free sale; and

(b) if so, with what effect and the details thereof?